

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) A method of determining whether an individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of using one or more oligonucleotides to detect said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, a presence of said porA nucleic acid indicating that said individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said one or more oligonucleotides are not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* if present in said biological sample.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* present in said biological sample.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is distinguished from another *Neisseria* species other than *N. meningitidis*.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, including the step of subjecting the biological sample to nucleic acid sequence amplification under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to produce an amplification product.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the amplification product corresponds to a fragment of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* porA pseudogene.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed under conditions which facilitate amplification of

said isolated *porA* nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to a detectable level but which do not facilitate amplification of said *porA* nucleic of *N. meningitidis* to a detectable level.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed using one or more PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said one or more oligonucleotides comprise a probe for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the probe is has a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the probe is has a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

35. (New) A method of determining whether a human individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the steps of:

(i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers having respective nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a *porA* *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae porA* nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and

(ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides having respective nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:3 having a donor

fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

36. (New) An oligonucleotide which is capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid, but which is not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis*.

37. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 35, wherein said oligonucleotide is not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of another *Neisseria* species other than *N. meningitidis*.

38. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 37 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

39. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 38 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

40. (New) A kit for detecting a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said kit comprising one or more oligonucleotides according to claim 36 together with a DNA polymerase and/or one or more detection reagents.

41. (New) The kit of claim 40, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

42. (New) The kit of claim 41, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

43. (New) The kit of claim 40, further comprising one or more primers that facilitate amplification of an *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *porA* nucleic acid.

44. (New) The kit of claim 43, wherein the one or more primers have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

45. (New) A nucleic acid array comprising one or more oligonucleotides according to claim 36, immobilized, coupled, bound, impregnated or otherwise in communication with a substrate.

46. (New) The nucleic acid array of claim 45, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

47. (New) The nucleic acid array of claim 46, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.